

Connecticut General Assembly
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
18-20 Trinity Street ■ Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860.240.8300 ■ Fax: 860.240.8314
E-mail: pcsw@cga.ct.gov
Web address: www.cga.ct.gov/PCSW

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Barbara Potopowitz, Communications Director
Office direct: 860-240-8449; cell: 860-271-5300; office general: 860-240-8300

Greenwich Student Places First in Statewide Essay Contest MAKING WOMEN VISIBLE DAY 2008

Hartford—"Why are men paid more than women? Are there consequences for women when they are paid less? How can we work towards ensuring equal pay for men and women?" Winners of the state legislature's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women's (PCSW) Young Women's Leadership Program's second annual essay contest were announced Thursday, February 21, 2008 at **Making Women Visible Day**. Awards were presented during a press conference at the State Capitol in Hartford.

Grace Hirshorn of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich won first place with her essay *Closing the Gap*. Grace writes, "Whatever a woman chooses, to start a family or to pursue a career, to attempt to juggle both or to attempt neither, she should have the opportunity and societal support to achieve her own personal goals without discrimination and receive appropriate wages for work she performs." Grace's entire essay is attached.

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Schools across the state asked their 9th graders to consider how the wage gap affects Connecticut's families. Participating schools include: Beth Chana Academy (Orange); Convent of the Sacred Heart (Greenwich); Danbury High School; The Ethel Walker School (Simsbury); Nonnewaugh High School (Woodbury); Norwich Free Academy; O.H. Platt High School (Meriden); and Waterford High School. This year's theme coincides with one of PCSW's main priority areas, financial and economic security.

The Young Women's Leadership Program was established in 2006 as a project of the PCSW. It is led by a steering committee of women between the ages of 18 – 35 years. This network is designed to inspire young women to lend a voice to matters that affect them and to provide opportunities for future leadership.

The PCSW, the State's leading force for women's equality, was established by the CT General Assembly in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental positions and works with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.

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